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SOURCE Tientsin Jih-pao.

NORTH CHINA PARTY PROPAGANDA WORKERS
NUMBER ALMOST ONE MILLION

[Summary: Reporting on the rapid expansion of the party propaganda network in the North China region, a Hsin-hua News Agency dispatch has disclosed that the number of propaganda workers in this area has almost reached the one million mark.

The report disclosed that 80 percent of the party branches in the North China region has established propaganda networks. The North China Bureau, CCP, has directed all party branches to establish propaganda networks in factories, mines, enterprises, and agricultural villages where none exist.

The report follows:]

In the course of the Three Antis and Five Antis Movements and the Workers and Peasants Patriotic Increase Production Movement, the CCP-led propaganda network has developed and expanded tremendously during the past half year.

Incomplete statistics from five provinces and two cities in the North China Administrative Region report that the number of propaganda workers has risen to 971,400, representing 1.4 percent of the region's total population and an increase of 381,600 workers over the preceding year. From 80 to 90 percent of the party branches in all the provinces and cities have organized propaganda networks, and the numbers in the propaganda ranks have expanded.

Some areas have carried on their propaganda activities along with the reorganization of the network, making it possible for the members to devote themselves solely to propaganda work, and thereby strengthen the proficiency of the propaganda workers and improve the leadership in the networks. For example, propagandist conferences have been held and broadcasting and receiving activities have been carried out regularly. The supply of propaganda material has also been adequate.

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The strengthening of the leadership has increased the effectiveness of the propaganda network. In agricultural villages in Chahar Province, the effectiveness of the propaganda network has increased by 20 to 34 percent, and in the cities by 30 to around 70 percent.

During the development of the propaganda network, one method of consolidating and raising the level of leadership has been the organization of competitive propaganda activities. The propaganda department of the Central Committee of the Shansi CCP, has organized emulation campaigns among the propaganda networks and at present 300 to 400 branches have issued and accepted challenges to compete with each other. The emulation campaign not only requires each party branch and propaganda worker to show their positiveness, but also requires party committees on each level to develop and strengthen the political-ideological leadership of the network. The launching of the emulation campaign has been a direct and powerful impetus to the patriotic Increase Production, Practice Economy Movement, and has consolidated and raised the over-all propaganda work. However, this campaign has not been launched universally in Shansi.

To make the work of the propaganda network a regular party activity, all areas in North China have used party propaganda workers to promote the "patriotic investigation day system" by setting a definite date to investigate the condition and progress of the patriotic compacts, production plans, and other key tasks. In Shansi Province, 30 percent of the branches are leading the masses in organizing this system. Experiences in all localities demonstrate that wherever the "patriotic investigation day system" has been established, it has enriched the political life of the masses in the agricultural villages, elevated the patriotic ardor of the peasants, and ensured the fulfillment of patriotic compacts. The establishment and maintenance of this system has accelerated the establishment of propaganda work as a routine party function.

All areas in North China have also expanded the number of newspaper reading clubs. There are more than 12,400 newspaper reading clubs in Tientsin and 10,200 in Suiyuan Province which together have a combined membership of nearly 1.5 million. Many hsiens in the Ch'ang-chih and Yu-tz'u special districts of Shansi have organized newspaper reading clubs in every village. Some newspaper reading clubs have developed hand in hand with the mutual aid teams. Some people even say, "When members of these groups sit down they are newspaper reading clubs; when they arise they are mutual aid teams." The strong core of leadership in most of the newspaper reading clubs is the propaganda workers. Their work with these groups is a part of their regular activities.

Where propaganda ranks have developed and expanded, there have been two types of propaganda organizations. The first type is the individual unit organized to carry on a specific activity, such as a newspaper reading club, a broadcasting group, or a village dramatic group. This type of organization is the most numerous and can be found in all localities.

The other type of organization is the propaganda team guided by the village culture and education committee. These teams, which are prevalent throughout Ta-ming Hsién in Hopeh, carry on various types of propaganda.

These two types of mass propaganda organizations are under the leadership of the party with propaganda workers serving as leadership cadres.

There are still some unresolved problems in the work of the North China propaganda network. In the first place, the leadership system is not firmly rooted and has neglected to investigate and examine the ideology of the masses and the activities of the network. Moreover the ideological level and ability of the propaganda workers have been inadequate to fulfill the demands of their work. The establishment of the propaganda network has been uneven, with the

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result that 20 percent of the branches have not organized propaganda networks. Although some branches have established networks, they lack sufficient propaganda workers to make their work effective.

About 25 percent of the propaganda networks in the agricultural villages are either functioning partially or not at all. Some of the networks in factories, mines, and enterprises have not adequately made use of new propaganda experiences, and some rural propaganda teams have been operating in name only. These problems have aroused the interest of the leadership at various levels. Therefore, the North China Bureau, CCP, has stipulated that priority should be given to the consolidation and improvement of the party propaganda network, to the continuous development of the mass propaganda network, and to the strengthening of the unified leadership of the party. The North China Bureau, CCP, has also directed all branches in factories, mines, and enterprises, and in all agricultural villages to establish propaganda networks where none exist.

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